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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF EUTAENIA.

BY ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN.

Eutaenia nigrolateris, species nov.

A snake belonging to this genus, now living in the collection of the Zoological Society, presents characters differing from any other species with which I am acquainted, to a degree requiring recognition and to the following description I append the above name.

Form moderately stout, about as in *E. sirtalis*. Tail short. Head short and broad, flattened on crown. Vertical and occipitals short and broad; superciliaries short in front; one ante-orbital, much elevated and pointed above, in contact with the fronto-external angle of the vertical; three post-orbitals, the lower one lying on the 5th and 6th superior labials; upper labials eight, 6th and 7th largest; lower labials ten, 6th largest. Eye rather large, center just behind the suture between the 4th and 5th labials. A vertical series of three temporals in contact with the post-orbitals, the lower one small and lying on the 6th and 7th labials, but mainly on the 6th; the middle one above and behind it, is much larger and elongated; the upper one, somewhat smaller than the last is in contact with the occipitals. On one side, in this specimen, the large, middle temporal is divided into two portions, the anterior being the smaller.

Twenty-one dorsal rows of scales; the outer one but little larger than the 2nd, the former smooth anteriorly, faintly carinated towards the tail; carinae on the remaining rows increasing towards the dorsal line.

A golden yellow stripe occupies the median row of scales from nape to tip of tail, widening slightly on the edges of the contiguous rows at the anterior end; a lateral stripe of same color, very indistinct anteriorly, where it is mostly confined to the 3rd row, but better defined on the posterior third of the body, where it invades the upper half of the 2nd. Color above the laterals, brownish-olive with two series of alternating dark spots (66 pairs, in this specimen from head to anus), the lower series on the 4th, 5th and 6th rows, the upper on the 7th, 8th and 9th; below the lateral lines, the 1st and lower half of the 2nd rows (anteriorly, occasionally to the lower half of the 3rd) with the ends of the abdominal scutellæ, are lustrous pitch-black. The upper surface of the head in front of the occipitals is greenish-olive; behind that, to the neck and the sides

of the head, including the 7th and 8th superior labials, blackish-brown, slightly maculated with dull chestnut just behind the occipitals; the dorsal yellow line being slightly indicated on the dark patch. Beneath white, with a creamy tinge anteriorly, becoming pale greenish on the sub-caudals. The labials are margined with blackish-brown; a post-oral cream-colored crescent with the concave side forward; a similar band passing down on the post-orbitals widens on the 6th upper labial and runs into the throat color and a third light band is indicated on the ante-orbital, becoming lost on the 4th upper labial. Iris bright copper color.

Abdominal scutellæ 156. Sub-caudals 63 pairs. Total length m .510 (20 1-8 in.) length of tail .110 (4 5-16 in.)

This species somewhat resembles *E. marciana* in form and general pattern of coloring, as well as in an extreme boldness and aggressiveness when handled, but is much darker; has the lower row of spots replaced by a shining black band below the lateral light stripe and is well marked by the extension of the ante-orbital upward to meet the vertical and the increased number of temporals.

The specimen was captured in September last, in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona, and was sent to the Zoological Society through the courtesy of one of its corresponding members, Mr. Herbert Brown, of that city.